



The Colombian National Ballet

THE LATEST

ON STAGE

The Colombian National Ballet Plays to Full Houses Worldwide

LOS ANGELES, Calif. – Long recognized for its colorful costumes and variety of rhythm and sounds, the Ballet Nacional de Colombia, or Colombian National Ballet is today reinvigorated and playing to full houses worldwide.

Established in 1955 by acclaimed ballet dancer and choreographer Sonia Osorio, the ballet has toured the world many times over to critical and popular acclaim. But with Osorio's passing in 2011, its future was uncertain until her son Rodrigo Obregón Osorio took over the company in 2012 and began to reconstitute and reinvigorate the company and giving it fresh luster to its spectacular choreography.

"This is a new ballet company with new dancers and new stars that support the legacy of my mother and the Colombian National Ballet," said Rodrigo Obregón Osorio.

Over the years, the ballet gathered Colombia's best dancers and toured the world to present her country's culture and native heritage. The group became one of the first western dance troupes to perform in Russia at the height of the Cold War. Winning innumerable awards and honors,

the Colombian National Ballet became one of the most acclaimed dance companies, performing in such cities as Madrid, Paris, Tokyo, Rome, Berlin, Tel Aviv, Buenos Aires, Los Angeles and many others.

The Company is one of the most Acclaimed Dance Companies Today

Today, the ballet is revitalized with young dancers that magnificently blend native traditions with modern dance techniques while maintaining the company's long history of outstanding skill and excellence.

"The Colombian National Ballet is continuing its tradition of fine entertainment built upon the successes garnered on international stages as it deftly presented Colombian culture and heritage," said Rodrigo Obregón Osorio. "It's a true visual and musical experience that engages and captivates the senses."

SEE THE VIDEO: (password: [ballet2016](#))
<https://vimeo.com/170531606>



Colorful Choreography

Dancers of the Colombian National Ballet show their talents in colorful costumes and breathtaking dance skills that have awed audiences around the world.



Dynamic Performers!

Using their athletic and dance skills, the talented dancers of the Colombian National Ballet present a dynamic and visually stunning performance.



Rodrigo Obregón Osorio is the director of The Colombian National Ballet.



With powerful rhythms, and dynamic choreography, the Colombian National Ballet delves deep into the rich culture and heritage of Colombia that blends European, native and African cultural influences.

Europeans, Colombia's music and culture is a rich blend of elements that make it uniquely Colombian.

The Bambuco, for instance is in part a European waltz made popular in Colombia, while the Cumbia is a mix of Spanish, native and African music.

"My mother loved the traditions of our country and was able to choreograph these great dances with this rich traditional music," he said. "Even before she passed away, I wanted to continue her legacy and maintain the proud work she started. We have added new choreography while maintaining a lot of the ones she created with much success."

With this group of talented young dancers, the ballet company is today adding to the legacy begun by its visionary founder and continued by her son.

CREATING NEW DANCERS

The Colombian National Ballet is helping create new generations of dancers each year through its prestigious Academia de Danza de Sonia Osorio or the Sonia Osorio Academy of Dance.

Established in 1954, now located in Bogota, Colombia by Sonia Osorio, the academy is teaching dancers as young as 4 the wonders of dance in its many forms. Its teachers are talented dancers in their own right who share a passion for dance as they teach classical ballet, modern dance as well as traditional folk dances.

Its graduates provide the core of today's Colombian National Ballet.

Dance Company Mines Cultural Past

When acclaimed ballet dancer/choreographer Sonia Osorio established the Colombian National Ballet, it was her goal to create a dance troupe that would honor Colombia's rich and multi-ethnic cultural heritage.

With its elite dancers and music that blended the Cumbia, Joropo and other music with its traditional dances of Mapale, Currulao and others, the ballet became a major hit with Colombian audiences. It's success soon led it to a smash hit international tour that found acclaim in Europe, Asia and the United States.

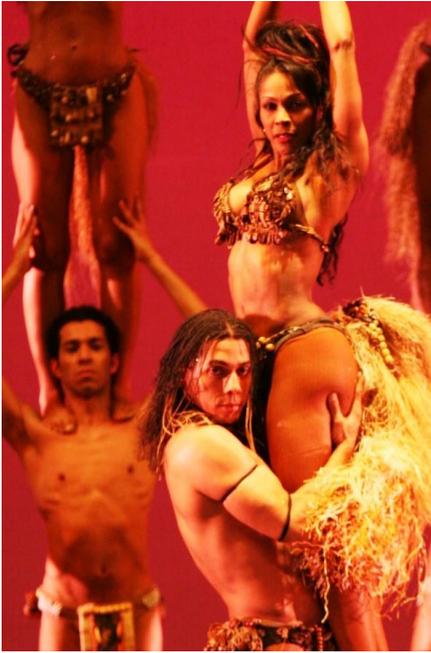
"Audiences abroad found the Colombian National Ballet extremely exciting and entertaining," said Osorio's son Rodrigo Obregón Osorio. "They had never seen anything like it and they were completely amazed by the show. It was to my mother's credit and her amazing choreography to create such a stunning show!"

With music created by its native peoples and African slaves as well as those from



Above and below, the dancers show their skill performing to the beat of the Pasillo Boleao and the Sanjuanero.





What the Media Says

"Tremendous discipline and a strong emphasis on technique" – **Tokyo Times**

"The Colombia National Ballet is an entire country in itself; a phenomenon difficult to find and one deserving genuine praise" – **The Geneva Tribune, Switzerland.**

"The debut of the Colombian Ballet in the Auditorium Theatre in Chicago proved the country's culture is rich in contrasting cultures, dances and rhythms," – **The Chicago Tribune.**

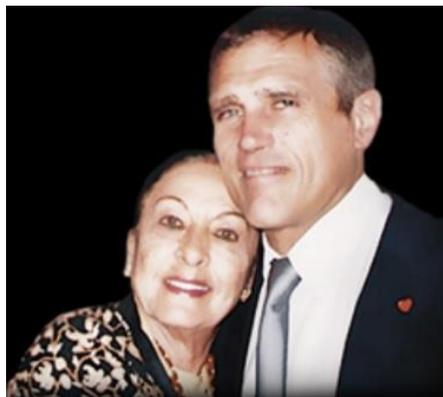
"Full of life, color and music. It was truly a mammoth production and earned a well-deserved standing ovation," – **El Tiempo, Los Angeles.**



Dolly Parton with the Ballet in Dollywood.

She would go on to establish the Academia de Ballet de Sonia Osorio to teach a new generation the skills of classical ballet, modern dance and native folk dances.

Receiving wide acclaim for her choreography and for leading the Colombian National Ballet, Osorio is also known for staging the main shows for the famed Barranquilla Carnival for over 30 years. She passed away in 2011.



Sonia Osorio, shown with her son Rodrigo, is the visionary founder of the Colombian National Ballet.

Sonia Osorio

Born into one of Colombia's oldest families, Sonia Osorio was the daughter of author, playwright and journalist Luis Enrique Osorio. She was also a great-great granddaughter of Alejandro Osorio Uribe, minister of war to Simon Bolivar, who led the region's fight for independence from Spain.

An elite ballet dancer, Osorio traveled the world and became a renowned choreographer and established the Colombian National Ballet to bring attention to Colombia's rich cultural heritage.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.balletnacional.com.co

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